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SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS SUMMARY

1. HIGHLIGHTS. SATURDAY MORNING PAPERS FEATURE SEVEN INDICTMENTS ON CHARGES OF COVERING UP WATERGATE SCANDAL: HALDEMAN, EHRLICHMAN, MITCHELL, COLSON, MARDIAN, STRACHAN, PARKINSON--LAWYER FOR COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT; HALDEMAN INDICATED FOR CONSPIRACY, OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE, PERJURY BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE; OTHERS SIMILAR. NIXON URGES QUICK TRIALS, CAUTIONS AGAINST PREJUDGMENT. WASHPOST'S BERNSTEIN AND WOODWARD REPORT GRAND JURY GAVE SIRICA SECRET REPORT ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S INVOLVEMENT.

1A. NYTIMES FRONTPAGES RED CROSS VISITS 65 ISRAELI POWS; HEATH DECLINES TO RESIGN. INSIDE TIMES HAS CAIRO GETS VIEWS OF US AND SOVIET; SCHEEL AND JOBERT AGREE IN BONN TO TRY FOR COMMART UNITY ON ENERGY AT BRUSSELS MEETING MONDAY, SCHEEL ADDING HE THOUGHT HIS TALK WITH JOBERT WOULD BE USEFUL WHEN KISSINGER ARRIVES SUNDAY EVENING. PRESIDENT NAMES MARION SMOAK CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, WARREN SAYING SMOAK HAS SERVED VERY WELL AS ACTING CHIEF. NO CUT NOW
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SEEN IN US ASIAN UNITS.

1B. WASHPOST LOCAL SAYS IRANIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED TAKING STRONG ACTION AGAINST US FOLLOWING SIMON'S STATE-MENT SHAH'S REMARKS ON ENERGY WERE IRRESPONSIBLE, BUT HAS LET MATTER DROP AFTER PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE STATE-MENT SHAH HAD NOT ACTED IRRESPONSIBLY. WASHPOST GETLER REPORTS GOLDWATER UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO NITZE NOMINATION TO PENTAGON POST. WASHPOST NOSSITER LONDON REPORTS JEREMY THORPE, ON WHOSE GOODWILL NEW BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO DEPEND, HOLDS WORLD VIEW CLOSER TO THAT OF OF-FICIAL WASHINGTON THAN ALMOST ANY OTHER BRITISH POLITICIAN, THORPE ADDING IN INTERVIEW HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ANGLO-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND BELIEVED BRITISH BEHAVED LIKE BASTARDS OVER MIDEAST.

2. KISSINGER. WASHPOST BERGER DAMASCUS REPORTS KISSINGER ARRIVED BRINGING ISRAEL'S SUGGESTIONS FOR GOLAN HEIGHTS DISENGAGEMENT OF TROOPS, US OFFICIAL ADDING KISSINGER DIDN'T BRING SPECIFIC PROPOSAL BECAUSE HE BELIEVES ANY-THING TOO PRECISE AT THIS POINT COULD BRING CONFRONTATION RATHER THAN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. AFTER FOUR-HOUR DISCUSSION ASSAD'S SPOKESMAN SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HADN'T ACCEPTED THE ISRAELI SUGGESTION BUT HAD PRESENTED ITS OWN THOUGHTS ON DISENGAGEMENT AND DISCUSSION WILL CONTINUE. BERGER SAYSEARLIER IN CAIRO US OFFICIALS CONFIRMED THAT NIXON HAD ACCEPTED INVITATION TO VISIT BUT TRIP WILL NOT BE CONFINED TO EGYPT SO ISRAELI VISIT IS THOUGHT LIKELY. BERGER REPORTS RED CROSS HAS VISITED 63 POWS AND WILL SEE THE OTHER TWO IN HOSPITALS, ADDS FORUM FOR SYRIAN-ISRAELI TALKS ISN'T SETTLED BUT KISSINGER IS CONFIDENT THAT CAN BE WORKED OUT. AT CAIRO FLAG-RAISING KISSINGER CALLED ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS A HISTORIC DEPARTURE AND BEGINNING OF A LASTING FRIENDSHIP, ALSO WARMLY PRAISED SADAT, BERGER SEEING IT AS SIGN OF KISSINGER'S GRATITUDE FOR SADAT'S HELP ON SYRIAN FRONT. KISSINGER ALSO SAID HE WOULD START A STUDY ON POSSIBLE AID FOR EGYPT AND HAD BREAKFAST WITH WORLD BANK'S MCNAMARA WHO IS IN EGYPT TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. US OFFICIALS SAID NIXON,S MIDEAST TRIP WOULDN'T BE MADE UNTIL AFTER JUNE TRIP TO RUSSIA, SO NEXT FALL SEEMS PROBABLE TIME.

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EBAN WILL VISIT US MARCH 14 OR 15.

2A. NYTIMES GWERTZMAN DAMASCUS STRESSES POWS RECEIVED THEIR FIRST RED CROSS VISIT, ADDS THAT UPON LEAVING CAIRO

NEWSMEN WERE TOLD NIXON WOULD PROBABLY ACCEPT EGYPT IN-VITATION AND TRIP, INCLUDING STOPS IN ISRAEL JORDAN AND

OTHER COUNTRIES, PROBABLY WOULDN'T OCCUR UNTIL SECOND HALF OF YEAR. NEWSMEN WERE ALSO TOLD KISSINGER BELIEVES IT WILL BE AT LEAST THREE WEEKS BEFORE SYRIA AND ISRAEL WILL BE IN NEGOTIATING RANGE OF EACH OTHER; THIS COULD MEAN MORE SHUTTLING FOR KISSINGER, SAYS GWERTZMAN, ALTHOUGH KISSINGER HOPES TO LEAVE DAMASCUS SATURDAY MORNING WITH AT LEAST AN ACCORD ON THE SITE AND FRAMEWORK FOR INITIAL SYRIAN-ISRAELI MEETING.

2B. NYTIMES TANNER CAIRO REPORTS US AND SOVIET UNION STRUCK CLEARLY DISCORDANT NOTES ON WAYS OF ACHIEVING MIDEAST PEACE, WITH KISSINGER WARMLY PRAISING SADAT AND GROMYKO RECALLING THAT ALL OF HIS VISITS TO EGYPT HAD PRODUCED PRACTICAL RESULTS AND STATING THAT LONG ASSOCIATION OF TWO COUNTRIES IS BASED UPON FRIENDSHIP TREATY OF 1971. TANNER ADDS MOSCOW FEELS CAIRO HAS NOT BEEN KEEPING ITS OBLIGATION TO KEEP RUSSIA INFORMED DURING KISSINGER'S SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY, ALSO GROMYKO'S UNDERLINING OF PRIME IMPORTANCE OF GENEVA MIDEAST CONFERENCE. GROMYKO TRIP IS INTERPRETED, SAYS TANNER, AS EFFORT TO SECURE AN ACTIVE ROLE FOR SOVIET UNION IN SEARCH FOR SETTLEMENT.

3. DEFENSE ITEMS. NYTIMES GELB REPORTS US FORCES IN EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC WILL REMAIN NEAR THEIR PRESENT NUMBER OF 185,000 OVER NEXT THREE YEARS, ACCORDING TO A SENIOR PENTAGON OFFICIAL AND SENIOR FOREIGN POLICY OFFICIALS, THIS BEING REGARDED AS BALANCING-POINT BETWEEN NIXON DOCTRINE POSITION THAT OTHER COUNTRIES SHOULD DO MORE TO HELP THEMSELVES AND NECESSITY IN AGE OF NUCLEAR PARITY TO MAINTAIN NONNUCLEAR FORCE LEVELS AND MILITARY PREPAREDNESS. GELB QUOTES OFFICIALS SAYING JAPANESE AND THAI OFFICIALS MAY SAY ONE THING ABOUT AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL TO THEIR PUBLICS AND ANOTHER THING TO US REPRESENTATIVES. GELB UNCLASSIFIED

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SAYS SCHLESINGER SUGGESTED TO HOUSE COMMITTEE THAT CHINESE ARE NO LONGER INTERESTED IN SEEING US TROOPS LEAVE THE REGION, VIEWING THEM AS A COUNTERPOISE TO SOVIETS, BUT BEYOND THESE POINTS, SAYS GELB, THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE AGREEMENT BETWEEN STATE AND DEFENSE ON WHAT WASHINGTON SHOULD BE DOING IN ASIA, PENTAGON HOPING JAPAN WILL INCREASE HER MILITARY SPENDING AND JOIN WITH CHINA IN OPPOSING SOVIET UNION, WHEREAS RANKING FOREIGN-POLICY OFFICERS SEE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS VERY DIFFERENTLY,

ARGUING JAPANESE REACTION TO MIDEAST WAS NOT PANICKY AND ROLE AT WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE WAS VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND COOPERATIVE AND SEEING NO EVIDENCE THAT JAPAN IS RE-THINKING HER DEFENSE POSTURE, NOR DO JAPANESE SEE ANY CURRENT THREAT FROM CHINA OR SOVIET UNION.

3A. WASHPOST GETLER REPORTS GOLDWATER DECLARED
YESTERDAY THAT HE WAS UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO THE EXPECTED
NOMINATION OF PAUL NITZE TO A KEY PENTAGON POSITION.
GOLDWATER IS MEMBER OF ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE WHICH
HASN'T YET RECEIVED NITZE NOMINATION, BUT PERHAPS MORE
IMPORTANT, SAYS GETLER, IS GOLDWATER,S ROLE AS THE KEY TO
HOLDING ON TO CONSERVATIVE SUPPORT AGAINST IMPEACHMENT.
GOLDWATER SAID: I AM OPPOSED TO THIS APPOINTMENT JUST
AS STRONGLY AS IT IS POSSIBLE FOR ONE WHO BELIEVES IN
MAINTAINING AN ADEQUATE DEFENSE TO OPPOSE A MAN WHO WAS
FORMERLY IDENTIFIED WITH A GROUP INTERESTED IN BRINGING
ABOUT OUR UNILATERAL DISARMAMENT, GETLER SUGGESTING
SENATOR IDENTIFIES NITZE WITH MCNAMARA EFFORTS WHICH
GOLDWATER
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